

75311

10 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

1. On this date, I was visited by Miss Ardelia R. Hall, of the Department of State (Code 191, ext. 2666), who was seeking assistance in connection with the unauthorized possession of certain art objects in Europe. Miss Hall stated that one Mate A. Topic had represented himself to one Stefan Hunsing of the Munich Central Art Collecting Point, as the Advisor on Restitution Affairs to the Yugoslav Government, Fine Arts and Precious Metals Section. She further stated that by surreptitious means, Topic had secured from the Munich Collecting Point, 167 art objects, exact value unknown but thought to be of considerable value. Topic acquired these objects on 2 June 1949 and 10 June 1949, and since that time neither the objects nor Topic have shown up in Yugoslavia. An investigation has revealed that only three of the 167 objects are bona fide property of the Yugoslav Government.

2. Miss Hall asked if CIA could be of assistance in locating Topic and in recovering the art objects. I told her that while this seemed to be somewhat out of our line, I would try to find out whether we could be of assistance or direct her to the proper office for assistance.

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Assistant to the Director

O/DCI:VML:mpg

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - C/CI
1 - C/SE
✓ 1 - C/EE
1 - ER
1 - VML

(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM) SECRET

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP** *HK*

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	<i>DC/EE</i>	<i>BBZ</i>	
2	<i>EE/COI</i> <i>logged-aw</i> <i>OCT 21 1955</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>OCT 24 1955</i>
3	<i>COI/SE</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>26</i>
4	<i>SE/CE</i>	<i>HK</i>	
5	<i>CSE/Y/EB</i>	<i>EO/DM</i>	<i>28 Nov</i>
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	<input type="text"/> O/DCI	<i>DM/2</i>	<i>10/19</i>
2	<input type="text"/>		
3	<input type="text"/>		

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

Remarks: *Should this not be referred to SK?*

3 to 5: Have you seen copy of this already? What action do you plan

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